Bidding Document (SBD). There is s a provision for limited sub-contracting in SBD. Sub-contracting beyond the provisions envisaged in the SBD is not permissible. Ensuring the quality of the road works is the responsibility of the State Government who is implementing the programme. National Rural Roads Development Agency (NRRDA) has issued general guidelines on quality control and prescribed a Quality Assurance Handbook to regulate quality control process at works level.

NREG scheme in Rajasthan

† 179. DR. PRABHA THAKUR: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has approved a scheme to introduce National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme in all districts of Rajasthan;

(b) if so, the date from which the work related to the employment guarantee is targeted to be started in all the districts of Rajasthan under this scheme; and

(c) the amount to be allocated by the Central Government to the state under this scheme in the financial year beginning from April, 2008 alongwith the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (NREGS) was introduced in 6 districts of Rajasthan with effect from 2.2.2006. The Scheme was extended to six additional districts with effect from 1.4.2007. The Government has notified all the remaining districts of the State for coverage under NREGS with effect from 1.4.2008.

(c) NREGS is demand driven and not allocation based. Provisions are made in the budget for implementation of the Act on the basis of funds utilized by the States and also on the basis of demand for work in the previous year.

High and variable interest rates on loans under SGSY

180. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that banks are charging high or variable interest rates on loans provided to the people from below poverty line under the Swarna Jayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY);

(b) if so, whether any steps have been taken to address the anomaly and also to encourage synergies that promote skill development and entrepreneurship in the rural areas;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefore?

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† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.